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## Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 September 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

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| President: | Mr. Taylhardat | (Venezuela) |
| Members: | Brazil | Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO |
| | Cape Verde | Mr. JESUS |
| | China | Mr. LI Zhaoxing |
| | Djibouti | Mr. OLHAYE |
| | France | Mr. MERIMEE |
| | Hungary | Mr. ERDÖS |
| | Japan | Mr. HATANO |
| | Morocco | Mr. SNOUSSI |
| | New Zealand | Mr. KEATING |
| | Pakistan | Mr. MARKER |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. VORONTSOV |
| | Spain | Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir David HANNAY |
| | United States of America | Mr. HICKS |

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93-86581 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

FURTHER REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SUBMITTED IN PURSUANCE OF PARAGRAPH 18 OF RESOLUTION 814 (1993) (S/26317)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which she requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Hassan (Somalia) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the further report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of paragraph 18 of resolution 814 (1993), document S/26317.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/26476, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations. I should like to draw attention to the following revision to be made in the draft resolution contained in document S/26476 in its provisional form: in paragraph 12, the words "and utilize" should be inserted after the word "maintain".

(The President)

I should also like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/26412, letter dated 7 September 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/26481, letter dated 20 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it, as orally revised in its provisional form. Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that that is the case.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

Before putting the draft resolution to the vote, I shall call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. OLHAYE (Djibouti): My delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his latest report on Somalia and for the untiring efforts of his Special Representative and other United Nations personnel in their devotion and sacrifices under such threatening and difficult circumstances. We are certain this will serve for some time as a landmark of commitment to the cause of a people and the call of duty.

The draft resolution before us, which we fully support, calls for redoubling efforts to re-establish the police, judicial and penal systems of Somalia. Taken together with the report of the Secretary-General (S/26317) submitted in pursuance of paragraph 18 of resolution 814 (1993), by which the Secretary-General was to keep us informed of developments in the security situation in Somalia, we have a comprehensive and informative description of the situation in that country. Both underscore the fact that Somalia's rehabilitation will require a multipronged approach, covering many fronts simultaneously. However, little of lasting substance will be achieved unless the threat of violence is removed, for which purpose law enforcement and judicial mechanisms must be developed to provide a secure environment for long-term social, economic and political activity to take place.

We are pleased to note the continuing resolve of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) to maintain rapid disarmament as a leading

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

priority and to focus on the removal of mines. That the overall situation in Somalia continues to be stabilized is worthy of note.

We are pleased to see that implementation of the comprehensive peace accords signed in Addis Ababa is steadily under way. That so many ordinary Somalis from the grass roots are involved in this process of deciding on so wide a range of issues and setting up a rudimentary mechanism which may eventually lead to the formation of a transitional authority is to be admired. We see that a transitional national council is intended to serve as the prime political authority during the two-year transition period, supported by a structure of regional and district councils.

For this reason, it is regrettable that the events transpiring in Mogadishu - in fact in one section of that city - have so captured the headlines and thereby distorted the impressive nature of Somalia's steady return to normalcy. Certainly, under any circumstances the loss of human life, civilian or official, is to be deplored and regretted. In fact, every step must continue to be taken to see that such tragedies are as infrequent as possible, within the context of the United Nations accomplishing its mandate. And it does seem that the United Nations is accomplishing its mission. A nation, a non-State, is being resurrected and, with the completion of its task visible on the horizon, the United Nations must make every effort and leave no stone unturned to complete its mission. At this juncture, anything less would have devastating implications and fallout for the United Nations and the people of Somalia.

We believe the combined impact of these developments demonstrates the resolve of the United Nations to re-institutionalize the democratic voice and participation of the Somali people in their own governance and the high priority the United Nations accords this goal. So many concrete steps taken at so many levels would not be possible without genuine progress in political reconciliation. In fact, it is our understanding that inter-clan hostilities have all but ceased and inter-clan meetings of note on various issues have taken place.

We are also pleased at the broad participation and work of the Transitional Charter Drafting Committee, which completed its work in June this year, and that of the cease-fire and disarmament committee.

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

We have examined the Secretary-General's outline of the status of the 1993 relief and rehabilitation programme, including the March meeting of donor nations, the United Nations relief agencies and representatives of the Somali people themselves. The broad and comprehensive approach of this programme - covering projects of employment, food distribution, continuing emergency relief operations, resettlement, social services such as schools and health services, the resuscitation of trade and commerce, the media and public outreach - speaks of the United Nations participation and the broad nature of Somalia's requirements.

Very little of this programme will have any lasting significance, of course, unless, as the Secretary-General indicates, serious attention is given to security matters, such as police, penal institutions and a functioning judiciary. The consideration, in the report, of the gamut of issues - training, equipping, paying, selecting, codifying, instilling pride and professionalism, and the manner in which intimidation is to be dealt with - is encouraging. The budgeted total of $45 million seems to be a reasonable cost for such a large task for the first year, covering outlays for police, penal and judicial matters.

We also support the reference in the draft resolution to the Secretary-General's intention to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of Member States interested in supporting UNOSOM II in the re-establishment of Somalia's police, judicial and penal systems. The need for training, facilities, technical assistance, staffing and expertise remains, and such a meeting could focus efforts and resources on areas of high priority. Funds are, of course, urgently needed, and this meeting and its follow-up, pursuant to the fund established under resolution 794 (1992) and maintained in resolution 814 (1993) for the purpose of receiving contributions to be used for the police, judicial and penal systems, must continue to be supported by Member States as an urgent matter. This draft resolution highlights these needs.

Similarly, as requested also in the draft resolution, it would be helpful to all concerned to have from the Secretary-General a detailed plan covering the future strategy of UNOSOM II with regard to its humanitarian, political and security activities.

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

The rehabilitation of Somalia under the United Nations has apparently begun. We are pleased to see that the widespread participation of all Somalis is envisioned and is, in fact, taking place, and that a reasonable transition period is contemplated so that leadership can be developed, security implanted, and systems put together. Both the United Nations and the Somali people require our continued support if we are to achieve success, and my delegation hopes that this support will be consistently forthcoming. We should not falter or waver at the eleventh hour because of the opposition of one lone warlord or for other reasons. We must complete our mission, because success seems at hand, and with it the return of one of our Members to the family of nations. Perhaps that is the true purpose of our Charter.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) (interpretation from Chinese): In order to end the tragic war in Somalia, alleviate the sufferings of the Somali people, create a safe environment for the humanitarian relief endeavour and establish national reconciliation and lasting peace, the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League have made unswerving efforts which have helped to restore stability in most parts of Somalia outside Mogadishu. However, we have noted that there still exist many unstable elements in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu, where there have been repeated occurrences of bloodshed and clashes, bringing increasing casualties to both United Nations personnel and Somali civilians. All this cannot but cause us deep concern.

We always hold that no matter how complicated the situation, a genuine solution can be achieved only through dialogue and negotiation. Otherwise, the efforts will go astray. As to how better to implement the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), we maintain that the opinions of the parties concerned and, in particular, those of the African countries, OAU and the Arab League should be solicited as widely as possible.

The main thrust of a series of resolutions adopted by the Security Council on Somalia is to promote the peace process initiated by the Agreement of Addis Ababa, to realize genuine national reconciliation and to restore peace and stability in Somalia so that the Somali people can embark on the road of reconciliation and economic revitalization. The recommendations of the Secretary-General for the establishment of Somali police and judicial and penal systems will serve to create the necessary conditions for the promotion of national reconciliation in Somalia. We therefore support these recommendations.

The final solution to the Somali question must be sought by the Somali people themselves. We urge all the Somali parties to implement earnestly the relevant Security Council resolutions, cease forthwith all military actions and cooperate with UNOSOM II so as to create conditions for an early political solution to the Somali question. The draft resolution before us has basically reflected the above-mentioned spirit. The Chinese delegation will therefore vote in favour of it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/26476, as orally revised in its provisional form.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Djibouti, France, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution, as orally revised in its provisional form, has been adopted unanimously as resolution 865 (1993).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan): My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his excellent report, document S/26317, and also wishes to pay a particular tribute to his Special Representative, Admiral Jonathan Howe, who is with us today, and with whom we have had the opportunity of a most useful exchange of views.

Among the countries participating in the United Nations operation in Somalia, Pakistan has paid the heaviest price in terms of human life. We had agreed to send our young men to Somalia because we believed in the purpose of the noble cause being pursued by the international community through the United Nations, and because of our commitment to United Nations efforts at peace-keeping.

In dispatching its troops under the emblem of the United Nations, the Pakistan Government had no motive other than to help bring peace to this troubled land. Indeed, in view of our long-standing fraternal relations with Somalia, we were confident that our soldiers would be treated as friends and messengers of peace and hope by every Somali. Despite the tragic incidents that have taken place since 5 June 1993, in which our troops have been targeted by the supporters of a ruthless warlord who expects to lose ground in a democratic and stable Somalia, we remain convinced that an overwhelming majority of Somalis still regard Pakistan as a friend who has come to their help whenever required.

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

In spite of the rather unfortunate coverage that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) has lately received in the media, we remain steadfast in our support for the United Nations involvement in Somalia as well as the objectives of the United Nations endeavour. The Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Army, General Abdul Waheed, who recently visited Somalia, once again reiterated Pakistan's resolve to retain its forces at the disposal of the United Nations for the duration of the mandate. Indeed, it is only because of the dedicated efforts of UNOSOM II personnel as well as of other multilateral bodies and non-governmental organizations that the overall situation in Somalia today is infinitely better than it was around this time last year. Death by starvation has disappeared. Yet only a year ago hundreds of thousands perished from starvation and gunfire. Educational institutions which had been closed for so long have begun to function. Hundreds of thousands of Somali adults and children have been immunized against diseases which were endemic in that country. Somali agriculture, which was devastated, is returning to normal and the last harvest was very good. The prospects for the coming harvest are said to be even better. There are encouraging signs of recovery of economic and commercial activity. Restoration of the Somali infrastructure, which has suffered seriously, will take years and will require the continuing commitment of donor countries.

It is important that while assessing the situation in Somalia we look at the overall picture rather than focus only on South Mogadishu, which is merely a miniscule part of the country. No doubt the volatile situation in South Mogadishu as well as the criminal acts and intransigence of Aidid and his supporters, have harmed the Somali reconciliation process. But it should be remembered that Aidid is merely an impediment to this process, the success of which serves proportionately to diminish the warlord's capability for oppression and robbery. We are therefore confident that by not losing sight of the ultimate objective and by pursuing it with determination, the United Nations can help the Somalis to restore national institutions, democracy, and law and order in their country.

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

We fully support the resolution that the Council has just adopted. The highest priority, without any question, should be attached to the return of normalcy in Somalia. Political reconciliation and a national consensus on a free and democratic Somalia are essential in this regard. The establishment of a national police force and judicial and penal systems are no less significant. It is equally important that local and regional representative institutions be established, leading to the election of a national Somali legislature.

In Somalia the United Nations, and specifically UNOSOM II, is engaged in a unique effort aimed at the rebuilding of a nation. The enormous scope and complexity of this task, or the difficulties in its way, cannot be overemphasized. It is therefore important that those in charge of the operation have both our understanding and our support. Indeed, in view of the novelty of the United Nations operation in Somalia, we have learned as we proceeded. It is our earnest desire that efforts to restore the Somali polity will proceed without too many problems and that the Somali people will soon be able to take its rightful place once again in the world as a sovereign, proud and democratic nation.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): The development of the situation in Somalia is being followed with continuing interest in France. Humanitarian intervention in this country, where severe starvation is raging, has elicited positive and rapid mobilization from the international community. France, together with numerous other countries, has immediately answered the appeal of the Secretary-General and more than a thousand of its soldiers today are making a contribution to the restoration of peace to the Baidoa region.

Today famine has been abolished. This success is indisputably a credit to this operation, a success which cannot be negated by the images of violence which come to us from Mogadishu. The country is beginning once again to find a certain stability, while debate in political institutions is being reborn thanks

(Mr. Mérimée, France)

to the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the team of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). In this framework also is the establishment of a Somalian police and justice system through the means provided for in this resolution.

(Mr. Mérimée, France)

It should, however, be emphasized that this country will not return to the path of peace and democracy as long as in certain parts of the country heavily armed factions continue their reign of terror and persist in attacking, in the name of purely selfish interests, United Nations soldiers who have come to that country to carry out a mission of peace. It is clear that in this context UNOSOM soldiers must be able to fulfil the mandate entrusted to them.

It is also fitting to recall that the long-term objective of the United Nations in Somalia was a fundamentally political and humanitarian one: the United Nations intervened to re-establish peace and democracy in Somalia and to assist in that country's reconstruction. It seems to us that today the time has come to relaunch the process of national reconciliation and to take the initiative in bringing all Somalis together around a political plan. The role of the United Nations will remain misunderstood and incomplete as long as such an initiative is not implemented.

Sir David HANNAY (United Kingdom): I should like to follow the Ambassador of Pakistan in welcoming very much the presence among us today of Admiral Howe, the Secretary-General's Special Representative. I think it is of the very greatest value for us to have had the benefit of his counsel and his willingness to discuss all the sensitive aspects of this operation with us, and I should like to simply convey to him the very firmest support and the best wishes of my Government as he returns now to his very difficult task.

My Government expresses its profound regret and its deepest sympathy to the families and to the Governments of all those who have lost their lives in Somalia, and that, of course, goes also for those Somalis who have died. We condemn all attacks on United Nations personnel, and we believe it is absolutely imperative that those responsible for such attacks should be brought to justice.

We fully recognize the dangers and the difficulties which UNOSOM faces in Mogadishu, but we believe it essential that law and order be restored there and that the disarmament of all the Somali factions should take place so that national reconciliation and rehabilitation, which are the fundamental objectives of the United Nations presence in Somalia, should proceed. We feel that it would be a tragedy if the United Nations were to fail in this task, and we, for our part, support its efforts to persevere.

(Sir David Hannay,
United Kingdom)

We welcome the progress that has been made in taking forward the political process and in resolving the immediate humanitarian-relief needs. But we underline that longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction activities must be given clear and prioritized planning together with realistic goals, and that they must go hand in hand with a serious and sustained effort towards political reconciliation on the basis of the agreements reached in the Addis Ababa Conference. It is essential to build on the gains that have been made and that progress in other parts of the country not be held back by the events in southern Mogadishu.

In this context, the re-establishment of the police and the judiciary and a proper penal system, which is one of the objects of the resolution we have just adopted, clearly has a crucial role to play if we are going to be able to hand over, as we must do, the running of this country to the Somali people and their representatives, and if we are to do so in conditions of stability.

The current plans are good ones, but they need further working out if this goal is to be achieved on a basis that will be sustainable even without the presence of the United Nations, and therefore the fullest possible involvement of Somalis at all levels - in the police, in the judiciary and in the penal system - must be a high priority.

Above all, we would like to applaud the efforts of African countries and their organizations in the work they have done to support the re-emergence of a civil society in Somalia, and we would like to encourage African countries to continue with these efforts. In this context, we have particularly in mind the countries represented on the Horn of Africa Standing Committee of the Organization of African Unity, who we believe have a serious and important contribution to make.

We express the hope that all Somali people will work together with UNOSOM, with the United Nations agencies and with the devoted efforts of the non-governmental organizations that are labouring in Somalia under very difficult conditions and that a coordinated effort will now be continued to rebuild the country.

Mr. HATANO (Japan): My delegation wishes to commend the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, Admiral Howe, and all the personnel of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for their commitment to improving the situation in Somalia.

Working in a difficult and dangerous environment, UNOSOM has achievements to its credit, especially in the area of nation-building. My Government attaches great importance to the political aspect of UNOSOM's activities and therefore welcomes the resolution we have just adopted. It supports the requests that the Secretary-General redouble his efforts to promote the process of national reconciliation and political settlement.

Japan recognizes that it may be necessary to launch a new initiative to expedite the reconciliation process so that a National Council and eventually a stable and democratic Government can be established in Somalia.

The re-establishment of a Somali police force, as well as a judicial and penal system, is critical to the restoration of security and stability in the country and also to the process of nation-building. Japan believes that every effort must be made to re-establish the Somali police force and is thus gratified that now, with this resolution, the Secretary-General's recommendation in this regard will be implemented on an urgent and accelerated basis.

In closing, I should like to call upon all Somali parties to mobilize the political will to achieve reconciliation and restore peace and security to their own country. Japan will continue to join the international community in its continuing commitment to help Somalia, but it is the people of Somalia who bear the ultimate responsibility for national reconciliation and reconstruction of their own country.

Mr. ERDÖS (Hungary) (interpretation from French): Hungary welcomes the adoption of this new resolution on Somalia, which results from some of the present tasks of national reconstruction and from the challenges arising from the continuing violence in the southern regions of the capital of Somalia.

Somalia has added to the arsenal of the international community's experience difficult and weighty lessons in human sacrifice. We are convinced that the United Nations will emerge strengthened from the period it is now experiencing in Somalia if it is able to draw the appropriate conclusions as

(Mr. Erdös, Hungary)

concerns the conduct of peace-keeping operations, the other international activities there, and the media aspects of its presence in the country.

Today's resolution will no doubt contribute to clarifying certain basic facts of the situation in Somalia by recalling the ongoing improvement in the general circumstances throughout the country and by pointing out the beneficial effects that such improvement has already had for the Somali people.

(Mr. Erdös, Hungary)

Given conditions in Somalia, we must not underestimate this great achievement of international action. To meet the objectives set forth by the United Nations, it is critical that order and security be restored throughout the country without exception. To carry out this huge and complex task, recourse must continue to be had, in a consistent manner, to the mandate and means which the Security Council has agreed in this matter. From that perspective, the clear references to Security Council resolution 814 (1993) in the resolution we have just adopted seem most appropriate to us, since it is precisely the provisions of that resolution that form the basis of our action in Somalia.

We believe that it is important to persevere in our efforts to get the country moving again simultaneously in all the directions indicated in our resolutions - in the military field as well as in the political, humanitarian, economic and other areas. Ongoing dialogue with parties in Somali society is crucial, and it must accompany these efforts. It is clear that the priority objective of re-establishing normal conditions in all sectors of the country is the restoration of security and stability in Somalia. In that context, beyond the disarmament operations, the rebuilding of the Somali police force and the re-establishment of the country's judicial and penal systems are essential. It should also be noted that, in the final analysis, it is up to the Somalis themselves to be responsible for the national reconciliation and reconstruction of their own country.

There has been increased interest in international public opinion in the continuing armed attacks against UNOSOM II personnel. These attacks are criminal acts. Resolution 865 (1993) is unequivocal in its condemnation of these actions and in its reaffirmation of the individual responsibility of those who, regardless of rank, status or position, perpetrate or order such criminal acts. The way in which the international community acts in this matter is likely to have repercussions on other similar processes affecting other conflict situations.

Mr. HICKS (United States of America): My delegation would like to join other speakers in recognizing Admiral Howe for his outstanding work in Somalia.

Today the Council has taken a most important action with regard to the United Nations Operation in Somalia. The resolution we have adopted does two crucial things. First, it sets out in clear, unambiguous terms that the United Nations principal goal in Somalia is to bring about political reconciliation in that long-suffering country. My Government has always seen the United Nations mission in Somalia as political in nature, helping the Somali people to re-establish their political structures and democratic institutions. Nothing is more important in Somalia than this political goal.

The other critical step we have taken today is to lend support to the basic building-blocks of new political institutions: a police, judiciary and penal system. The police are the safeguard of the lives and property of all citizens in a civilized society. With the establishment of a strong, effective Somali police force, supported and overseen by a functioning judicial system, the Somali people will be free to take up again their normal lives, free from intimidation by the gunmen who brought starvation to this land.

As Admiral Howe pointed out, the United Nations Operation in Somalia has accomplished a great deal in Somalia. Only a year ago, hundreds of thousands were starving to death. Today starvation is gone and Somalia is on its way back. With this resolution, we provide vital tools to the recovery, reaffirming our clear direction for the political process and reinforcing the Somali institutions that can best protect and foster that process. We are pleased at the quick action that the Council has taken on this resolution, so necessary to giving an added impetus at this critical juncture to the ongoing process of rebuilding Somalia's political institutions.

My Government is pleased to have supported this resolution and sees within its framework a bright promise of a reconciled Somalia standing proud among its fellow nations of the world.

Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): No one is unaware of the difficulties in Somalia. The Brazilian Government pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of all personnel and commanders of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), who are working in difficult circumstances and have been the victims of hostilities and armed attacks, in many cases with considerable casualties. We fully support the work of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Admiral Jonathan Howe.

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the Governments and the families of those who have lost their lives in Somalia. The efforts of the members of UNOSOM II and their dedication to the goals of the United Nations will not be forgotten.

The outrageous attacks perpetrated against UNOSOM II have already been strongly condemned by the Security Council. It is appropriate that we reiterate that condemnation and that the Council send a strong signal to all Somali parties involved in those unconscionable attacks. All such acts must cease immediately and those responsible for them must be held accountable.

We continue to be seriously concerned about the situation in Somalia and about the need for a clear conceptual framework on how best UNOSOM II can contribute to improving that situation. Through their efforts to overcome the combined problems of poverty and factional strife, which have taken such a tragic toll in innocent lives, the people of Somalia are writing a dramatic chapter of African and world history. It is our sincere hope that this chapter will soon be closed and that the Somali people will get their well-deserved chance for peace, justice and development. They deserve our full solidarity in this endeavour.

Well aware as we are of the ongoing difficulties, it is gratifying to note the information provided by the Secretary-General on the improvement of certain important aspects of the situation in Somalia. Considerable progress has been achieved in addressing some of the most pressing humanitarian tasks, such as those related to basic health and nutritional needs. Significant steps have been and are being taken in the political field towards the implementation of the Addis Ababa agreement. In various parts of the country, there are signs of a resumption of social services and economic activities, which are essential for

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

creating the infrastructure for future development and self-reliance. A great deal of hard work will continue to be required in all those areas, but the signs of progress are indeed encouraging and should no doubt be put to the credit of UNOSOM II and the Somali people. We are also indebted to the African countries that have been contributing to this effort.

A lot remains to be done to achieve the goals of national reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia. The measures decided upon today by the Security Council in adopting resolution 865 (1993) are important additional steps in this regard. In particular, the approval of measures aimed at re-establishing law-enforcement and judicial institutions brings an essential element by strengthening the endogenous capacity of the Somali people themselves effectively to tackle their problems, most notably in the field of security and in building a society based on the rule of law.

The adoption of this resolution gives additional proof of the commitment of the United Nations to continue to work in Somalia with a view to the restoration of normal conditions of life in that country. The complexity of the situation in Somalia and the many new challenges facing United Nations operations there have often been emphasized. The United Nations is breaking new ground in Somalia in an innovative and necessary undertaking aimed at bringing peace, security and a better life to the people of Somalia. This is a wide-ranging political undertaking that cannot be mistaken for any of its particular components.

As stated in resolution 865 (1993), the highest priority is placed on the efforts to promote national reconciliation and the re-establishment of national institutions and civil administration throughout the entire territory of Somalia. As a member of the Council, Brazil will continue to follow closely developments related to Somalia and the operations of UNOSOM II and will continue to give its support to carefully designed actions that can further that goal.

Mr. VORONTSOV (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): From the very beginning of the international community's implementation of the operations to render assistance to the population of Somalia, the Russian Federation has continually favoured the speedy stabilization of the situation, a political settlement and national reconciliation in that country.

We note with satisfaction that the situation in the majority of the country's regions is improving. This is allowing the Somali people to return to normal life. As the Secretary-General's report (S/26317) points out, starvation has for the most part been eliminated; the programme for substantive improvement of food distribution and mass immunization of children is being carried out; and schools are being opened in an ongoing process. A number of regional councils have been established, which are the basis for the restoration of statehood and self-government in the country.

As is indicated in resolution 865 (1993), which was just adopted by the Security Council, the highest priority task of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is to support the Somali people in carrying out the process of national reconciliation, and to advance and accelerate the restoration of regional and national institutions and civilian administration throughout the country.

We are grateful to all of the personnel of UNOSOM II, and to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Admiral Howe, for their unswerving efforts in this area. At the same time, we fully agree with the provision of the Secretary-General's report which states that in order for peace and security to be established in Somalia all armed units must be disarmed. In this respect, we firmly condemn and consider inadmissible a situation in which peace-keeping contingents of the international community, whose mission is to promote the stabilization of the situation in that country, national reconciliation and the restoration of statehood, are becoming the target of armed attacks.

We express our condolences to the Governments and families of the soldiers and officers of UNOSOM II who have given their lives in Somalia. The Russian delegation believes that the incidents which have taken place in the southern part of Mogadishu should not be an obstacle to the implementation of the agreement achieved at the Conference on National Reconciliation in Addis Ababa. We consider important the appeal contained in resolution 865 (1993) to all

(Mr. Vorontsov, Russian Federation)

Member States to join with regional organizations in rendering assistance - by all possible means, including the mass media - to the Secretary-General in his efforts to reconcile the parties and re-establish political institutions in Somalia.

Resolution 865 (1993), just adopted, notes that the re-establishment of the Somali police and of the judicial and penal system is important for the restoration of security and stability in Somalia. At the same time, as regards the financial aspects of carrying out those objectives, the Russian delegation believes that the appeal in paragraph 14 of the resolution to the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary steps to ensure continuation of the present programme for the establishment of the police, judicial and penal system during the period from October to the end of December 1993, before additional funds are forthcoming from Member States, does not mean that those steps will be carried out through the budget for United Nations operations in Somalia. Expenditures for those specific objectives cannot be covered by the budget of our Organization.

The Russian Federation is ready to interact with the United Nations and with all States, and to work within the context of regional efforts, for the speedy restoration of peace, stability, law and order, which will create the necessary conditions for a national reconciliation and a political settlement in Somalia.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): With the adoption of resolution 865 (1993), the Security Council once again underscores the firm commitment of the United Nations to help the Somali people bring about national reconciliation and return to a normal national life, with the gradual restoration of their institutions and the public services that are essential to the community.

The Secretary-General's report of 17 August 1993, and the oral reports the members of the Council have had occasion to hear - the latest of those this very morning from the Special Representation of the Secretary-General, Admiral Howe -

(Mr. Yañez Barnuevo, Spain)

show that the work the United Nations is carrying out in Somalia is largely a little-known story of concrete achievements and substantial progress in the direction we had laid down.

The joint efforts of UNOSOM and other United Nations bodies have made it possible, inter alia, to virtually eradicate famine in the country; schools are again opening their doors now, after four years without any classes; a large portion of the country's children have been vaccinated; and we are now tackling and resolving its principal health problems. From an economic and social perspective, moreover, a good portion of the population are returning to their lands, and agriculture, livestock rearing and trade are all being revitalized.

These achievements have their counterparts in the political field as well. As provided for in the Addis Ababa Agreement, the gradual formation of district councils will be the first step towards the creation of regional councils and the future establishment of a Transitional National Council, all of which will lay the foundation for the restoration of state institutions in Somalia. We are convinced that the majority of the Somali people have the political will to achieve speedy national reconciliation, as is evinced by all of these achievements.

We must stress that the problems in Somalia can ultimately be overcome only by the efforts of the Somalis themselves, bearing in mind, naturally, that all the groups, factions and parties must be given their say, and only those whose actions have proven that they are outlaws should be barred from the process. This effort must be carried out by the Somalis themselves, with the support and assistance of the international community: the United Nations, but also the neighbouring countries, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is exceedingly important that the Somalis be able to count on this support and assistance of the international community.

We must regret, however, that United Nations forces in Somalia have been harassed by one of the Somali factions, which stands in the way of their work and undermines any chance of dialogue. We would like to emphasize the full validity of UNOSOM II's actions to promote the fulfilment of the goals set down by the Security Council. We would also like to pay tribute here to all those

(Mr. Yañez Barnuevo, Spain)

who have given their lives in the service of this noble cause. At the same time, we would like to highlight and pay tribute to the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Admiral Howe, and of the entire personnel of UNOSOM II, who have carried out their task under difficult circumstances and have shown great fortitude and determination.

(Mr. Yañez Barnuevo, Spain)

The resolution that we have adopted today stresses the need to restore, swiftly, certain institutions and essential public services, such as the police and the judicial and penal systems, in Somalia, to make it easier for the people of Somalia soon to control their own destiny, and to speed that process. This will help the political reconciliation now in progress, through which Somalia must rebuild its institutions as soon as possible so that it can become a free, democratic and fully sovereign country by 1995 at the latest.

Mr. KEATING (New Zealand): In casting our vote in favour of this resolution, New Zealand reaffirms its wholehearted support for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the United Nations mission in Somalia. We greatly appreciated Admiral Howe's presence with us today, and the insights that he has given the Council.

It is now 10 months since the first New Zealand contingent was deployed in Somalia, with UNOSOM I. Since then, we have made military contributions to the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) and to UNOSOM II. Furthermore, the Government and the people of New Zealand have responded with humanitarian assistance to relieve the tragedy that existed in Somalia only a year ago.

My delegation believes that real progress has been achieved in improving humanitarian conditions throughout Somalia. We welcome this development most warmly. Thousands of human beings are alive today in Somalia who would have succumbed to famine and anarchy. The United Nations, the courageous United Nations personnel in the field and the Governments that have supported the United Nations can take justified credit for this achievement.

We believe that it is important to stress the positive developments that are taking place in Somalia. We hear much in the media of the clashes occurring in the southern part of Mogadishu, but this must not detract from the very real progress being made elsewhere in the country.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the United Nations, great improvements have also been made in the second objective established by the Security Council when it established the UNOSOM II mandate: the political reconstruction of Somalia. District councils are being established, schools are opening and local institutions for law and order are being rebuilt. My delegation is much encouraged by these positive elements.

(Mr. Keating, New Zealand)

It is clear that the international community will need to remain committed over the long term to ensure Somalia's political and economic reconstruction.

The attacks on United Nations personnel in southern Mogadishu remain a cause for grave concern. My delegation is dismayed by the criminal activities of one Somali faction which is attacking United Nations peace-keepers. This faction was a signatory to the Addis Ababa agreement, which invited the United Nations to extend all assistance to the people of Somalia for the implementation of the agreement, including the disarmament of the various factions.

We condemn the refusal of those leaders whose actions have resulted in further deaths and in disruption to the humanitarian mission. In this regard, my delegation extends its sincere condolences to all those families and countries that have suffered casualties and loss of life.

My delegation is pleased that this resolution unequivocally condemns all attacks on UNOSOM II personnel. We welcome the reaffirmation by the Council that those who have committed or ordered the commission of such criminal acts will be held individually responsible for them, for it is clear that the perpetrators of such crimes will not desist unless the consequences of their actions are made clear.

This situation is intolerable and requires urgent rectification. The issue of the safety and security of United Nations personnel is one which the New Zealand delegation will be vigorously pursuing at this year's session of the General Assembly.

There are many who say that the difficulties that UNOSOM II has encountered in southern Mogadishu mean that the United Nations has lost its way and that the Security Council should review the mandate. We do not share that view. It is unduly influenced by images on television screens; it does not take adequately into account that the Council has all along seen the primary objective of UNOSOM as the humanitarian mission and the reconstruction of political institutions in Somalia.

But my delegation fully agrees with the Secretary-General that the achievement of the humanitarian objectives of UNOSOM II are indeed jeopardized without restoration of law and order in Somalia generally and Mogadishu in particular. That said, we welcome the emphasis placed in the present resolution

(Mr. Keating, New Zealand)

on the priority of making progress in political reconciliation and the reformation of the Somali police and judicial systems. We are heartened to note in the resolution the restatement of the goals of the United Nations in Somalia. Indeed, the ultimate goal of the United Nations operation is a political one: to assist the people of Somalia in the furtherance of national reconciliation and to promote and advance the re-establishment of regional and national institutions, and civil administration, throughout the country.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

UNITED
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Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.3281
22 September 1993

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND
TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 September 1993, at 4.45 p.m.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President: | Mr. Taylhardat | (Venezuela) |
| Members: | Brazil | Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO |
| | Cape Verde | Mr. JESUS |
| | China | Mr. LI Zhaoxing |
| | Djibouti | Mr. OLHAYE |
| | France | Mr. MERIMEE |
| | Hungary | Mr. ERDÖS |
| | Japan | Mr. HATANO |
| | Morocco | Mr. SNOUSSI |
| | New Zealand | Mr. McKINNON |
| | Pakistan | Mr. MARKER |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. VORONTSOV |
| | Spain | Mr. PEDAUYE |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir David HANNAY |
| | United States of America | Mr. HICKS |

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93-86587 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.50 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON LIBERIA (S/26422 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liberia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bull (Liberia) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Liberia, documents S/26422 and S/26422/Add.1.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/26477, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw attention to the following revisions to be made to the draft resolution contained in document S/26477 in its provisional form. In the last preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 10, the word "general" should be replaced by "legislative"; and in operative paragraph 8, the words "in conjunction" should be replaced by "concomitantly".

The first speaker is the representative of Liberia, on whom I now call.

Mr. BULL (Liberia): The delegation of Liberia warmly congratulates you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month and on the effective manner in which you are carrying out your duties. I should like also to express my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Madeleine Albright of the United States of America for her leadership and her skilful guidance of the work of the Security Council during the month of August.

My delegation welcomes and deeply appreciates the Secretary-General's comprehensive report (S/26422 and Add.1) of 9 September 1993 on the situation in Liberia, which was submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 856 (1993) on the proposed establishment of a United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). The Secretary-General's report manifests his continuing commitment to the pacific settlement of the Liberian conflict, and also reflects his desire to implement the principles enunciated in his report "An Agenda for Peace".

Since the signing of the Cotonou Agreement on 25 July 1993 by the parties to the Liberian conflict there have been no significant violations of the terms of that Agreement. Most of the political components of the Agreement, including the selection of a five-member transitional Council of State, have been implemented, and Liberians are optimistic that peace is finally at hand.

(Mr. Bull, Liberia)

However, the relative absence of conflict in the country must not be mistaken for irreversibility of the peace process. On the contrary, the situation in Liberia is still unsettled. The crucial military components of the Cotonou Agreement, dealing with the encampment, disarmament and demobilization of combatants, have yet to be implemented.

As long as the combatants remain armed, the situation in the country will continue to be unpredictable. That is why my delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal that the disarmament process be undertaken as soon as possible. This would allow the installation of the transitional Government, which according to the Cotonou Agreement is to be seated concomitantly with the commencement of the disarmament process. The deployment of some members of the advance team of UNOMIL pursuant to resolution 856 (1993) has served as an important confidence-building measure. It is therefore most important that the remaining members of UNOMIL be deployed as soon as possible.

The disarmament of the combatants will be greatly enhanced by the deployment of additional troops to augment the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). As noted in the Secretary-General's report, the funding for additional troops will depend, inter alia, on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund by Member States. My delegation would like to echo the request already made by the Secretary-General for Member States to make generous contributions to the Trust Fund. Indeed, such contributions will prove indispensable if the repatriation, the rehabilitation, the demobilization and the electoral process are to be implemented within the time-frame set for the holding of legislative and presidential elections, by March 1994.

The people of Liberia have undergone more than three and a half years of civil strife. Through the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States, and with the support of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations, Liberians are now engaged in a process which will lead to national reconciliation and reconstruction and the establishment of a duly elected Government in the country.

The report of the Secretary-General outlines the support which is required from the international community: contributions to the Trust Fund and the

(Mr. Bull, Liberia)

continued provision of humanitarian assistance, which will complement the determined efforts of the Liberian people to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict.

While we acknowledge that peaceful change in Liberia will ultimately depend on the Liberians themselves, my delegation appeals to the members of the Security Council and the international community to provide the required assistance and support that are so vital if a peaceful resolution of the conflict is to be fully achieved.

In that connection, I should like to seize this opportunity to register my Government's appreciation to those countries which have already responded to the Secretary-General's appeal. My delegation wholeheartedly endorses the Secretary-General's report and the draft resolution now before the Council. By adopting that draft resolution, the Council will be acting in accordance with its mandate under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Additionally, by endorsing the draft resolution the Council will be taking a bold step in undertaking peace-keeping, peacemaking and peace-monitoring in concert with the subregional organization that initiated the process.

By exerting its best efforts to ensure that UNOMIL is successful, the Council could provide a model for future cooperation between the United Nations and other subregional organizations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Liberia for his kind words addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it, as orally revised in its provisional form. Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that that is the case.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

Before putting the draft resolution to the vote, I shall call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. OLHAYE (Djibouti): My delegation would again like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his timely and informative report on the situation in Liberia.

The planning mission dispatched last month to gather information prior to the proposed establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) would seem to have accomplished its mission. On the basis of the results of this initial visit, sufficient data is available to form a basis for the structure of UNOMIL.

This mission establishes an important precedent for the United Nations, that of a peacemaking mission set up after one is already in place through another organization. Consequently, the issues of coordination, command and responsibilities are significant and will require careful monitoring and assessment. The supportive but independent role of the United Nations needs to be safeguarded, particularly where hostilities may resume and peacemaking action is required against one of the parties. We must also be assured that proper measures are in place to protect United Nations personnel and permit them to exercise unimpeded their functions.

It would seem that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has done a splendid job to date to resolve this crisis, is resolute in its desire to resolve this conflict and establish a representative elected Government. The deployment of UNOMIL therefore seems to be crucial to the whole process proceeding in high gear. For this reason we applaud the speed with which the mission has been organized and will be put in place. This will, hopefully, demonstrate to the Liberians our commitment to the peace process and to a return to normalcy. We shall then be in a position to encourage the new

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

five-member Council of State to take the steps necessary to complete the disarmament and demobilization process and to organize the important elections commission.

While we focus on the political settlement, we are pleased to note that the plight of Liberia's many refugees and displaced persons is not being overlooked; nor is the need for humanitarian assistance. Attending to these matters will gain a good deal of immediate support from the general populace and ease the transition to the new phase of life in Liberia. The ordinary Liberian has suffered unduly in this conflict and requires our utmost attention.

Deployment of UNOMIL is a key factor in the fair distribution of humanitarian aid. We support the steps the Secretary-General has undertaken to establish a trust fund to cover a range of vital processes and activities and his call for contributions from Member States is consistent with the timetables set to accomplish various tasks.

The United Nations is much wiser now and is aware of the steps which need to be taken to forge the road to peace and settlement. Difficulties and uncertainties are always present, but the United Nations appears to have assessed the Liberian situation with some care, and the chances of resolution, based upon the actions of combatants to date in Liberia and Cotonou, seem quite encouraging.

My delegation therefore supports the draft resolution before us establishing UNOMIL for a period of seven months under the direction of the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/26477, as orally revised in its provisional form.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Djibouti, France, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution, as orally revised in its provisional form, has been adopted unanimously as resolution 866 (1993).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. HICKS (United States of America): As the Council is aware, the United States has a long historical link with Liberia and has watched developments there closely. We are therefore pleased to be a part of the international community's actions in support of the Agreement reached between the parties at Cotonou to lay their arms aside and move together towards a peaceful resolution of the tragic conflict there that has heaped such suffering upon their nation in recent years.

The resolution just adopted by the Security Council should help to create the climate necessary for successfully building up the trust so vital to successful implementation of the Peace Agreement.

The role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) will be pivotal. We trust that adequate and appropriate coordination between all levels of command of ECOMOG and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) will enable both groups to operate in the complementary manner foreseen by the Council and the parties to the Agreement. The precedent set here of side-by-side operations by the United Nations and a regional group may have reverberations in other conflict areas which could perhaps be tackled in a similar manner if the world sees it work well in Liberia.

Let me take this opportunity to reassure the brave troop-contributing nations that are willing to help Liberia out of its crisis that the United States Government is prepared to assist them in their efforts.

Finally, I should like to stress the importance of moving quickly to commence the process of encampment and demobilization, which will enable the Council of State to begin its work.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): It was with great satisfaction that my delegation voted in favour of this resolution. It attests to the resolve of the international community to implement a peace agreement in a strife-torn nation and creates a United Nations force that is called upon, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, to work in close cooperation with the regional organization.

This is one of the first instances of a joint peace-keeping operation and could serve as a precedent if it succeeds. Accordingly, we shall be particularly attentive to the way it unfolds. The United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) will play fully its role of monitoring and verifying the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, while the primary responsibility for actually implementing the provisions of the Agreement will fall to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

We expect African countries, and members of the Organization of African Unity in particular, to contribute as quickly as possible to the strengthening of ECOMOG. France also calls on the Liberian parties to honour their commitments in good faith, to set aside violence once and for all and, in a genuine spirit of national reconciliation, to prepare themselves for the elections in February and March 1994 that will put this country on the road to peace, stability and democracy.

In order to achieve this objective, France calls on the parties to begin without delay the process of cantonment, disarmament and demobilization. I should like to reiterate the great importance we attach to the provision of aid to civilian populations in need, and I call on all those involved to facilitate the delivery of such aid.

Finally, I express the hope that the implementation of a peace-keeping operation in Rwanda will receive the same degree of attention from the Council.

Sir David HANNAY (United Kingdom): The resolution which we have just adopted is a further important step towards implementing the terms of the Agreement reached at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summit in Cotonou on 25 July for which both ECOWAS and the United Nations and its Special Representative, whose work we commend, have worked so hard.

The creation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) under this resolution brings closer the prospect of lasting peace in Liberia and of ending a conflict which has had an appalling cost. Some 150,000 people have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands have been displaced, and the conflict has had a much wider destabilizing effect on the countries of the subregion as a whole, and particularly on Sierra Leone. In this respect, we very much welcome the decision in the resolution that UNOMIL should have a monitoring function on Liberia's borders with its neighbours, and in particular with Sierra Leone.

UNOMIL will be the first example of a United Nations peace-keeping mission undertaken in cooperation with a mission already established by a regional organization. This is testimony to the very effective, imaginative and welcome collaboration that is already under way between the United Nations and ECOWAS.

UNOMIL will work alongside the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) peace-keeping force. Their roles will be separate but complementary. Close coordination and the fullest cooperation between the two bodies will be vital to the success of the enterprise. We therefore welcome the fact that the resolution spells out in some detail how the mandate of UNOMIL will fit with that of ECOMOG. The intention of the Secretary-General to conclude with ECOWAS a formal agreement defining the respective roles and responsibilities of the two is very necessary. We hope it will be concluded as soon as possible and that this will precede the early deployment of the Observer Mission.

In the view of my Government, it is crucial to the effective functioning of UNOMIL and to the safety of its personnel that the cooperation to which the parties to the Cotonou Agreement committed themselves be continued. The present cease-fire must continue to be adhered to strictly. It is impossible to stress too much the need for all the parties to the conflict to take this opportunity for peace. So many have been lost in the past.

The resolution also welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of a Trust Fund to assist the task of reinforcing ECOMOG as well as to meet other

(Sir David Hannay,
United Kingdom)

important objectives. We urge Member States to look positively at the case for supporting a Trust Fund. For our part we are considering how best we might help the cause of peace in Liberia, and in the meantime we will continue to provide humanitarian relief to those suffering. We have committed £8.5 million since 1990.

Finally, the resolution rightly urges that the timetable set out in the Cotonou Agreement, which would point to elections in 1994, should not be allowed to slip. Of course, one must not underestimate the problems of sticking to that timetable, but if all show flexibility, cooperation and good will it can be achieved, and the sooner those elections take place in free and fair conditions the sooner the people of Liberia can begin a new life, and a new life in peace.

Mr. HATANO (Japan): My delegation notes with satisfaction that since the Peace Agreement was signed in Cotonou progress has been made towards the restoration of peace in Liberia. The Council of State representing all three Liberian parties has been formed and a United Nations advance team has been deployed. Now the time is ripe to establish a new peace operation, the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) to facilitate the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

UNOMIL is unique in the sense that it will be the first mission undertaken by the United Nations in cooperation with a peace-keeping force already set up by a regional organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It will be extremely important to ensure close coordination between UNOMIL and the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) and clearly to define the roles and responsibilities of each body in the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Japan notes that under the Peace Agreement ECOMOG bears the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, while it is up to UNOMIL to monitor the procedures in order to verify their impartial application.

I concur with the Secretary-General's view that the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement will be in jeopardy if the additional troops are not deployed or if some of the ECOMOG troops are to be withdrawn

(Mr. Hatano, Japan)

prematurely. Thus we welcome ECOMOG's plan to expand its forces by 4,000 and encourage African States to provide additional troops.

I stress that the peace process must be advanced in accordance with the timetable laid out in the Peace Agreement - that is, elections must be held in February or March 1994. Since the process is already behind schedule, we urge all parties in Liberia to demonstrate their strong political will to implement the Agreement without delay. It is important that ECOMOG move quickly to begin the disarmament process even before the expanded ECOMOG and UNOMIL forces are fully deployed.

Finally, I believe it should be reiterated that the sustainability of UNOMIL, and in fact of all future peace-keeping operations, depends on the safety of United Nations personnel involved. Japan welcomes ECOMOG's commitment to ensure the safety of UNOMIL observers, and urges all parties to take every necessary measure to enhance the security and safety of UNOMIL personnel and those involved in humanitarian activities.

Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): It is an important resolution that the Council has just adopted. The Cotonou Peace Agreement, signed in July by the Liberian parties, brought new and well-founded hopes for a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Liberia, a crisis which has taken a very heavy toll and brought great suffering to the people of that African country of the South Atlantic region.

There is an opportunity for peace in Liberia, and it must not be lost. With the decisions taken today by the Security Council in adopting resolution 866 (1993) the United Nations is showing that it is fully aware of the need to ensure the successful outcome of that process and is prepared to add its own important contribution to the efforts already being made by the African countries that are neighbours of Liberia.

We support the recommendations made by the Secretary-General for the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), as set out in resolution 866 (1993).

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

By assisting in the monitoring of compliance with the Cotonou Agreement, UNOMIL will constitute a decisive complement to the activities to be carried out by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). The distinct mandates of the two operations are clearly designed to promote the same goal: the restoration of peace, security and stability in Liberia.

This is a case in which new modalities are being designed for close cooperation in the field between the United Nations and the regional organization. We are convinced that such cooperation, with clearly defined roles for each organization, each in accordance with its own rules and procedures, is a very encouraging development.

The significance of the tasks entrusted to UNOMIL stands out quite clearly. The monitoring of the cease-fire and other aspects of the Peace Agreement, particularly the arms embargo and the assembly, disarmament and demobilization of troops, as well as the observation of the election process, and other activities, will no doubt constitute an invaluable contribution to the efforts of the Liberian people to achieve national reconciliation and to establish a new basis on which to restart their national development.

Brazil attaches great importance to respect for the norms of international humanitarian law. We were appalled by the reports of serious violations of those norms in the conflict in Liberia, and we understand that respect for humanitarian imperatives will be a cornerstone of the peace process. That must of necessity include - and we wish to emphasize this point - strict respect for the safety of all United Nations personnel and relief workers in Liberia.

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

I wish to express our recognition of, and support for, the work carried out by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Liberia, Mr. Trevor Gordon-Somers. Their efforts, together with the close monitoring of the situation by the Security Council, will continue to play a crucial role in ensuring success in the peace process, with a view to the holding of democratic elections in March 1994. It is our hope that these elections will open the way for a new era of peace and development for the Liberian people.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Peace Agreement signed at Cotonou has brought new hope of ending the civil war and restoring peace and security in Liberia as well as the subregion of West Africa. This is the result of concerted efforts by the various Liberian parties, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations. For this, we wish to express our welcome and appreciation.

We are pleased to note that the various Liberian parties have started to implement the Peace Agreement signed at Cotonou; that the Liberian National Transitional Government and the Joint Cease-fire Monitoring Committee, composed of representatives of the three Liberian parties, the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) and the United Nations, have both been established; and that some members of the advance team of United Nations military observers to Liberia have arrived in Monrovia. This undoubtedly will advance the peace process in Liberia.

We hope that the conflicting parties in Liberia will fully cooperate with ECOWAS, adopt practical and effective measures and earnestly implement the Peace Agreement and the relevant Security Council resolutions so as to contribute to an early realization of national reconciliation and national peace. Therefore, the Chinese delegation supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General for the deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and voted in favour of the resolution that has just been adopted.

Mr. McKINNON (New Zealand): This resolution sets an important precedent for United Nations cooperation with regional organizations. We pay tribute to the work of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The regional countries have played an important and responsible role in the peace process. We look forward to the participation of other African States, in partnership with the United Nations and with ECOWAS, in bringing a lasting peace to Liberia.

New Zealand is very pleased that the resolution spells out clearly and precisely the role the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) is to perform. In particular, my delegation welcomes the fact that the mandate and the command and control issues are clearly set out.

My delegation is also very pleased that the issue of safety of United Nations personnel features prominently in the resolution.

We warmly welcome the decision by the Liberian parties to establish an interim government. We urge the establishment as soon as possible of mechanisms to enable political reconciliation and the conduct of early elections.

We emphasize the importance of the provisions in the Cotonou Agreement relating to disarmament and demobilization. Recent history in other places has shown us the disastrous consequences that can follow if disarmament and demobilization obligations are not carried out. The Security Council will be following this aspect with close attention.

We are also very conscious of the burdens that the war in Liberia has created for Liberia's neighbours. We are pleased that the resolution takes account of this aspect.

Finally, my delegation warmly welcomes the resumed delivery of humanitarian assistance to all parts of the country.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): There are no further speakers on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.3282
23 September 1993

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND
TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 23 September 1993, at 1.35 p.m.

| | | |
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| President: | Mr. Taylhardat | (Venezuela) |
| Members: | Brazil | Mr. SARDENBERG |
| | Cape Verde | Mr. BARBOSA |
| | China | Mr. LI Zhaoxing |
| | Djibouti | Mr. DORANI |
| | France | Mr. MERIMEE |
| | Hungary | Mr. ERDÖS |
| | Japan | Mr. HATANO |
| | Morocco | Mr. BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI |
| | New Zealand | Mr. KEATING |
| | Pakistan | Mr. MARKER |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. VORONTSOV |
| | Spain | Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir David HANNAY |
| | United States of America | Mr. WALKER |

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the Security Council.

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93-86593 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE QUESTION CONCERNING HAITI

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (S/26480 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Haiti, documents S/26480 and Add.1. Members of the Council also have before them document S/26484, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I should like to draw attention to the following revisions to be made to the draft resolution contained in document S/26484, in its provisional form. I shall read those amendments in English.

(spoke in English)

The seventh preambular paragraph should read as follows:

"Recalling the situation in Haiti and the continuing responsibility of the Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,".

At the end of the existing final preambular paragraph add the following:

"and recalling in this respect the statement of the President of the Security Council of 17 September 1993 (S/26460),".

(The President)

Immediately following, insert a new preambular paragraph, which reads as follows:

"Considering that there is an urgent need to ensure conditions for the full implementation of the Governors Island agreement and the political accords contained in the New York Pact as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General of 13 August 1993 (S/26297),".

In operative paragraph 1, the words "Peace-keeping" after the words "United Nations" should be deleted.

Operative paragraph 3 should read as follows:

"Determines that the UNPMS shall provide guidance and training to all levels of the Haitian police and monitor the way in which the operations are implemented in accordance with paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General of 21 September 1993;".

Operative paragraph 5 should read as follows:

"Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to place the peace-keeping mission under the oversight of the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States, who also oversees the activities of the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH), so that the peace-keeping mission may benefit from the experience and information already obtained by the MICIVIH;".

At the beginning of operative paragraph 7, the words "safety and" should be inserted after the word "such".

After existing operative paragraph 12, insert a new paragraph, which reads as follows:

"Expresses its appreciation for the constructive role of the Organization of American States in cooperation with the United Nations in promoting the solution of the political crisis and the restoration of democracy in Haiti and, in this context, stresses the importance of ensuring close coordination between the United Nations and the Organization of American States in their work in Haiti;".

The remaining operative paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

(The President)

(spoke in Spanish)

I should also like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/26352 and S/26361, reports of the Secretary-General concerning Haiti dated 25 and 26 August 1993, respectively, submitted pursuant to the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council dated 12 July 1993 (S/26063) and 13 August 1993 (S/26297); S/26180, letter dated 26 July 1993 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of a letter from His Excellency Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti; S/26471, letter dated 14 September 1993 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the text of a letter from the Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of American States; and S/26482, letter dated 21 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to vote on the draft resolution before it, as orally revised, in its provisional form. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Djibouti, France, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution, as orally revised, has been adopted unanimously as resolution 867 (1993).

Given the lateness of the hour, and in conformity with the decision adopted in the Council's prior consultations, I shall now suspend the meeting until 3.30 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.45 p.m. and resumed at 3.55 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. WALKER (United States of America): Today the United Nations takes another important step towards the restoration of democratic government to Haiti.

By authorizing the deployment of 567 United Nations Police Monitors and a military construction unit of 700, we are saying to all Haitians of democratic spirit and good will that the community of nations is ready to lend a helping hand. Both the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) can be proud of the role they are playing in helping the tree of liberty take root in Haitian soil.

We all understand that the road ahead will not be easy. Haiti is entering a period of fundamental change. Its most important civic institutions must be refashioned as the building blocks of a democratic society. To fulfil that role, these institutions will have to have legitimacy in the eyes of the Haitian people. They must be accountable to the Haitian people. They must operate on behalf of the Haitian people. And they must reflect the unique character and courage of the Haitian people. They cannot be imposed from the outside. But, with the consent of Haitian leaders, outsiders can help Haitian citizens by giving them the benefit of our experience, by providing appropriate material support, and by sharing with them our faith in democratic processes and ideals.

The establishment and maintenance of civil order by democratic means is essential to the future of Haiti, and helping that to occur is a central purpose of the United Nations mission.

Last July, each party to the Governors Island Agreement undertook a solemn commitment to his country's future. As witnessed by our action today, the international community is responding accordingly. But we expect the Governors Island signatories to meet their own obligations in full, especially with respect to safeguarding the human rights of Haitian citizens and ensuring the safety of United Nations Mission personnel in Haiti.

It has been almost two years since the democratically elected leader of Haiti, Father Aristide, was overthrown. The international community condemned

(Mr. Walker, United States)

that illegal action and ultimately took the very serious step of applying global economic sanctions as a way of influencing those who had perpetrated it.

By our action today, we say to those in Haiti who still believe that the cause of democracy can be thwarted and that their own interests will prosper only under a dictatorial regime that the time for such thinking is past. To those in Haiti who have suffered the consequences of repression compounded by massive poverty and have nevertheless maintained their faith in democracy, we say that the time for validating their faith is at hand. To all Haitians, we say that the time for bitter division is now behind you, and the time for reconciliation and nation-building has come.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation felt it was a matter of urgency to vote for this resolution under which it is decided to send to Haiti a United Nations Mission that will promote the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement.

My country welcomed the signing of that document, which allows for the return of the legal authorities on 30 October next. The conclusion of that Agreement and the implementation of the initial phases provided for in it were achieved through the commitment and tireless work of the representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Dante Caputo, to whom my country would once again pay a tribute. It is particularly shocking that today he should be insulted and threatened in the very country where he is bringing peace and democracy. Let me reaffirm that France continues to support very strongly the work that he is doing in Port au Prince.

(Mr. Mérimée, France)

The many positive developments in Haiti since July also reflect a spirit of compromise on the part of the leaders of the various factions. It would be unfortunate if the atmosphere were to deteriorate in an enduring way that would compromise the initial achievements in the process of national reconciliation. France strongly condemns the many recent acts of violence and human rights violations in Haiti. My country calls on those responsible to show restraint and to respect the rules of the game of democracy.

My country notes the decision to dispatch, for a period of six months, a military construction unit; while not specifically provided for in the Governors Island Agreement, this will help involve the armed forces in the civilian work of rebuilding the country. We can only welcome this. To be sure, the projects to be carried out in this framework will have to be financed by a special fund, which should be funded largely by the participants in the military construction unit.

France hopes that the immediate deployment of the United Nations Mission in Haiti will help restore confidence and stability in that country by bringing the endorsement of the international community and the guarantees needed during this transitional period.

Mr. HATANO (Japan): The recent developments in Port au Prince should be condemned as a blatant attempt to prevent the new constitutional government from properly carrying out its functions. Japan strongly hopes that the responsible authorities will take immediate measures, in good faith with the Governors Island Agreement, to maintain public order and expedite the process of recovery and a return to democratic, constitutional order in Haiti.

The adoption of today's resolution is of great significance, since the resolution affirms the international community's determination to remain actively committed to the goal of a peaceful and genuinely democratic order in Haiti.

Japan believes that a stronger United Nations presence in Haiti will contribute to a solution of the problems that continue to beset the Haitian people. Japan thus supported the establishment of a new peace-keeping operation for Haiti.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese people have all along cherished deep and fraternal feelings towards the Latin American countries and their peoples. We have followed developments in Haiti closely and we support the Haitian peace process. We hold that comprehensive and impartial implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact is the key to the peace process; the international community has made tremendous efforts to that end. In order to consolidate the initial progress in the peace process and to avoid set-backs, we urge the various Haitian parties to give due weight to Haiti's national interests, to support the legitimate government in Haiti, earnestly to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, and to continue to overcome difficulties, so as to create the conditions necessary for the scheduled return to Haiti of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In order to achieve those objectives, the Security Council has approved the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and has decided to send the United Nations Mission in Haiti to assist Haiti in establishing a new police force and in modernizing its armed forces. We are convinced that this endeavour of the international community will help the Haitian government restore security, gradually stabilize the situation and ensure the success of the peace process in Haiti.

In view of all this, China supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and voted in favour of the resolution adopted before lunch.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation is gratified at the speed with which the Security Council adopted the resolution establishing the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) only a few days after receiving the relevant report of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 862 (1993). In the light of events, our decision supplements the statement made by the President on behalf of the members of the Council on 17 September, in which, in view of the deteriorating situation in Haiti and the acts of violence provoked by certain armed groups, the Security Council sternly warned those responsible for such acts of the possible reimposition of sanctions should the Secretary-General recommend this to the Council.

The Council's two-pronged decision - last week's statement and today's resolution establishing the United Nations Mission in Haiti - clearly

(Mr. Yáñez Barnuevo, Spain)

demonstrates the determination of the United Nations to have a presence in Haiti, to help the parties genuinely to implement the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact, and to bring to the people of Haiti the help they need to restore democracy and democratic institutions.

We consider that the dispatch of the Mission should have a positive impact: it will establish a climate of trust that will enable the legitimate government of Prime Minister Malval to assume effective control over the Haitian administration. In the medium and long term, it should also contribute to a deep transformation in the functioning of the Haitian armed and security forces, making them institutions genuinely in the service of the democratic government.

We are deeply concerned by the present situation. We are concerned by the threats against the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), Mr. Dante Caputo, and by the obvious, active resistance by certain sectors of the Haitian security forces in impeding the good-faith implementation of agreements entered into, and the transfer to democracy.

I refer to another aspect of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 17 September: that the Council would hold the Haitian military and security authorities personally responsible for the safety of all United Nations personnel in Haiti. Today's resolution also emphasizes that point. We consider it very important for us to remain vigilant and to ensure that any action that could compromise the safety or freedom of movement or action of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in Haiti immediately receives the response it deserves from the Security Council.

It is important to stress that the international community is continuing to work to help the Malval Government regain democratic legitimacy and to ensure the return of the legitimate President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

(Mr. Yáñez Barnuevo, Spain)

Close cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States and between the International Civilian Mission, which is organized and directed by those two organizations, and the United Nations Mission in Haiti, which is now being created, will ensure a continued, active international presence in the country during this key transitional period of the return to democracy.

We hope that the United Nations Mission in Haiti, which we have just established and which we hope will soon be on its way to Haiti, will be able to fulfil as envisaged the various stages of its undertaking and that at the same time the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact will be fully implemented.

We trust that all Haitian sectors will recognize the international community's determination and will have no doubt that the Security Council is prepared to take whatever measures are necessary for the speedy restoration of democracy and institutional normality in Haiti.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): The Brazilian Government continues to follow the situation in Haiti very closely, and with great apprehension.

It is essential, in our view, that the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact be strictly implemented in good faith by the parties in order to achieve the solution of the political crisis in Haiti and to restore democracy and the rule of law in that country of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The work carried out by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States and, in particular, the efforts of their Special Representative, Mr. Dante Caputo, continue to be crucial. Brazil gives the fullest support to that work and those efforts.

The resolution adopted today provides important additional elements to ensure that the situation in Haiti will evolve in such a way as to allow the full and undelayed implementation of the Governors Island Agreement. The maintenance of a climate of security in Haiti will be essential to that end.

In responding promptly and effectively to the request made by the Constitutional Government of Haiti for assistance in the establishment of a new police force and the modernization of the armed forces, the United Nations is

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

making an outstanding contribution to ensuring the successful outcome of the efforts of the Haitian people to overcome their present difficulties.

The recent incidents of politically motivated violence in Haiti, which Brazil has strongly condemned, have underlined our concern about the situation in that country and the urgency that is called for in our endeavours to ensure the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, as provided for in the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Expeditious action was clearly required on the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Haiti. We therefore gave our full support to the adoption today of resolution 867 (1993).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): With the Council's permission, I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Venezuela.

Venezuela welcomes the Security Council's adoption of this draft resolution, which, we are sure, is an essential contribution to the creation of the conditions necessary for the return of President Aristide to his country on 30 October this year and for the restoration of democratic order in Haiti.

Venezuela supports the recommendations in the Secretary-General's reports of 25 August and 21 September 1993, especially with regard to the establishment and immediate deployment of a United Nations Mission in Haiti. This is an urgent operation because of, among other things, the grave situation of violence and political intimidation that has re-emerged in Haiti, which impedes the effective functioning of the legitimate Government and the creation of a climate of tranquillity and stability, essential for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Governors Island Agreement, while also hindering United Nations efforts to re-establish democracy in Haiti.

Venezuela must express its deep concern over this situation. The international community has committed itself to guaranteeing the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact, and will not tolerate acts of defiance whose continuance would force it to reimpose the sanctions provided for in resolution 841 (1993).

(The President)

We reiterate our support for the presidential statement made on behalf of the Council on 17 September, which declares that anyone attempting to harm United Nations personnel in Haiti will be held personally responsible.

Finally, Venezuela considers that this action of the Security Council, which we will follow very closely, is but one of the steps necessary to restore democracy in Haiti. It trusts that this process will be consolidated and that its objectives will be fully attained in the shortest possible time.

That is the end of my statement as representative of Venezuela. I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no further speakers on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

**UNITED NATIONS** **S**

**Security Council**

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.3283
29 September 1993

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 29 September 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President: | Mr. Taylhardat | (Venezuela) |
| Members: | Brazil | Mr. SARDENBERG |
| | Cape Verde | Mr. JESUS |
| | China | Mr. CHEN Jian |
| | Djibouti | Mr. OLHAYE |
| | France | Mr. MERIMEE |
| | Hungary | Mr. LAKATOS |
| | Japan | Mr. MARUYAMA |
| | Morocco | Mr. BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI |
| | New Zealand | Mr. McKINNON |
| | Pakistan | Mr. MARKER |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. LOZINSKIY |
| | Spain | Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir David HANNAY |
| | United States of America | Mr. INDERFURTH |

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93-86641 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

EXPRESSION OF WELCOME TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DONALD CHARLES KcKINNON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): At the outset of the meeting, I should like to acknowledge the presence at the Council table of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, His Excellency the Right Honourable Donald Charles McKinnon, to whom, on behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

SECURITY OF UNITED NATIONS OPERATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (S/26358)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the security of United Nations operations, document S/26358.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/26499, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like also to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/26444, which contains the text of a letter dated 13 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

(The President)

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. McKINNON (New Zealand): Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your very warm welcome and for the opportunity of speaking to this draft resolution.

New Zealand welcomes the draft resolution on the safety and security of United Nations personnel, which the Security Council is about to adopt. As Council members will be aware, New Zealand has made the issue of the safety of United Nations personnel a particular priority since we began our term on the Council at the beginning of this year.

Events since then, particularly in Somalia, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, have underscored the urgency of the issue. We must ensure that United Nations personnel are adequately protected - especially those whom this Council mandates to go into difficult situations in the cause of maintaining international peace and security and those who risk their lives in the no less noble cause of delivering humanitarian relief to the victims of conflict.

During our presidency of the Council in March the Security Council adopted a presidential statement on this issue in connection with the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace". As a result of the request made in the March statement, the Secretary-General produced the excellent report on the nature and adequacy of existing arrangements for the protection of United Nations personnel which we shall approve in the draft resolution we are to adopt today.

New Zealand welcomes the Secretary-General's thoughtful proposals about what further steps should be taken to protect United Nations personnel. We appreciate the Secretary-General's commitment to undertake additional steps within his area of

(Mr. McKinnon, New Zealand)

responsibility to increase the level of protection for his people in the field.

The Secretary-General's report confirms that the protection of United Nations personnel is a multifaceted issue that must be tackled on a number of fronts. It requires concerted action by this Council, by the General Assembly, and by the Secretary-General.

The draft resolution before us confirms that attacks on personnel engaged in operations mandated by this Council will be considered interference in the exercise of the Council's responsibilities. It warns that the Council will take appropriate measures in any such case. It also confirms that if a host country fails or is unable to adequately protect United Nations personnel, the Council will take appropriate action. This might include specific steps to deal with those who attack United Nations personnel.

In line with the Secretary-General's proposals and, I would note, in line with suggestions New Zealand put before this Council in March, today's draft resolution puts special emphasis on those matters which the Council should address when deciding to establish or to renew a peace-keeping operation. It determines that on each such occasion the Council will require the host country requesting the operation to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of all persons engaged in the operation, and to conclude without delay an agreement establishing the legal framework under which the United Nations personnel will operate.

These practical steps, which too often have been honoured in the breach rather than in the observance, will go some way towards ensuring that there is no misunderstanding between the United Nations and the host country of the responsibilities that go with any request for the dispatch of a United Nations mission. I am pleased to note that even before the adoption of today's draft

(Mr. McKinnon, New Zealand)

resolution, the Council has in recent weeks moved to establish a more consistent practice in this area.

One matter that this draft resolution does not address directly is the responsibility of individuals who attack United Nations personnel. It does not do so because it was the consensus of the Council that, while such matters can properly be taken up by the Council in the specific circumstances of a particular incident or operation, a more general pronouncement of individual responsibility for attacks on United Nations personnel is more appropriately the business of the General Assembly.

In this connection, as Council members know, at New Zealand's initiative, the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly has on its agenda a new item on responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice. We will be proposing that the General Assembly adopt a new international convention along the lines of other international conventions establishing criminal responsibility. This new convention should establish beyond doubt that those who attack United Nations personnel, and those who order the commission of such attacks, commit a crime punishable by any country in which they may be found.

I am pleased to note that the Secretary-General's report endorses the conclusion of a new international convention in this area and that the draft resolution we are about to adopt welcomes our initiative in the General Assembly.

We look forward to working with all Members of the United Nations in moving as quickly as possible to the establishment of clear international rules in this area. We will then bring home to those who are responsible for attacks on peace-keeping and humanitarian-relief personnel that their actions will never be

(Mr. McKinnon, New Zealand)

tolerated and that they will be held personally responsible for the consequences of their actions.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan): The issue of safety and security of peace-keeping personnel is rightly receiving the greater attention of the international community. The sharp rise in the incidence of attacks on United Nations personnel underscores the necessity for the Security Council to effectively address this serious problem. United Nations personnel are increasingly being required to operate in extremely difficult circumstances. New peace-keeping operations have been deployed in conflict situations, exposing such personnel to greater physical risks. As noted by the Secretary-General in his report contained in document S/26358, the rate of casualties among peace-keeping personnel has almost doubled during the current year.

Attacks and the use of force against United Nations peace-keeping personnel to prevent them from implementing their mandate are a matter of special concern to my delegation. Pakistani troops serving peace under the United Nations flag have suffered many casualties. They continue to be targeted by elements that seek to undermine the authority of the Security Council. Such reprehensible acts are wholly unacceptable.

We fully endorse the draft resolution that is about to be adopted. It should be a clear signal to those who seek to use violence against United Nations personnel to further their own criminal ends that the Council is prepared to take the measures necessary to ensure the safety and security of those engaged in United Nations operations. States or parties to a conflict must fully cooperate with the United Nations to ensure their security and safety. The international community cannot allow any party to create impediments to peace-keeping operations and prevent them, through the use of force or by any other means, from implementing their mandate as authorized by the Council.

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

My delegation is pleased to note the Secretary-General's intention to introduce measures as indicated in his report which, among other things, would ensure that security matters would become an integral part of the planning for operations and that any such precautions would extend to all the personnel. We share the Secretary-General's view that both short-term and long-term strategies for enhancing the security and safety of personnel involved in United Nations peace-keeping and other operations must be considered. The adoption of the present draft resolution by the Council today will constitute an important first step in this direction.

My delegation welcomes the initiative taken by New Zealand during the current session of the General Assembly on the subject of safety and security of peace-keeping personnel. We view it as most timely. The international community as a whole must resolve to hold persons or parties responsible for their criminal actions against United Nations personnel.

Before concluding, I should like to place on record my delegation's deep appreciation and gratitude to the thousands of brave women and men who are currently engaged in United Nations peace-keeping operations. In particular, I should like to pay a special tribute to those who have lost their lives or suffered injuries in the service of mankind. Their sacrifice should serve to strengthen our commitment to promote and establish peace throughout the world.

Mr. OLHAYE (Djibouti): My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the subject of security of United Nations operations and personnel. With its brief account of United Nations practice, synopsis of relevant factors and issues, and outline of the present situation, it is extremely useful.

It is hard to dispute the contention that the nature of United Nations peace-keeping has changed and present-day missions are

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

likely to face dangerous, life-threatening hostility. The Council must focus Member and non-Member attention on this vital matter and consider the necessary steps whereby all parties might lessen this danger. The draft resolution before us is one such step, which is why we support it.

We must thank the Secretary-General for the emphasis he places on the safety and security of non-United Nations military and peace-keeping personnel, the civilian personnel, and private staff of non-governmental organizations and contractors who are participating in these operations at considerable risk to themselves. These organizations, when engaged by the United Nations as implementing partners to provide resources, must receive more recognized and official status with regard to safety and security. International law with regard to United Nations and foreign personnel in a country is, as the Secretary-General notes, contained in a collection of documents, multilateral and bilateral treaties, international agreements, historical practices, the United Nations Charter and so on and so forth. It will be very helpful and clarificatory for the international community to enact a new international instrument codifying and consolidating this widely scattered body of law and understanding, specifying the safeguards, privileges and immunities for United Nations peace-keeping and civilian contractors and non-governmental organizations and their personnel, as the Secretary-General also notes.

All this is quite good and necessary. But my delegation still wonders if the new international strongmen - the warlord types such as we have seen in Bosnia, Angola and Somalia - will be deterred by such formality. These are situations in which the host Government itself is powerless to act to protect. However, criminals and violators of protected personnel must know that an enforcement mechanism is in place, one which can and will act.

(Mr. Olhaye, Djibouti)

In addition to tightening up loopholes now existing in United Nations peace-keeping security operations, which this draft resolution does, we look forward to seeing the new procedural measures for the communications, training and regulations review to be undertaken by the Secretary-General.

The frightening rise in United Nations and non-United Nations casualties must be reversed, and these measures are a necessary step in that direction.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I now propose to the members of the Council that we proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/26499).

If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Djibouti, France, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 868 (1993).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): The issue of the security of United Nations operations and the personnel taking part in them is of prime importance for my Government. As members know, France has placed almost 10,000 men under our Organization's flag; 21 of them have lost their lives in the past two years in the service of the United Nations, while another 311 have been wounded - gravely in many cases - in the

(Mr. Mérimée, France)

cause of keeping the peace. Other countries have, unfortunately, had to mourn the loss of their soldiers in United Nations operations, especially in the recent past.

Many of those casualties could have been avoided if the parties to the conflicts in which the Organization is intervening had taken the necessary measures to prevent and halt attacks or acts of force against United Nations operations and their personnel. This is a crucial point, and we should remind the host countries of their responsibilities in this area.

Over the past year we have seen the growing concern of our Organization and its Member States vis-à-vis the security of United Nations operations. This interest has been reflected in General Assembly resolution 47/72, in the presidential statement made in the Security Council in March and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General, in the proposals of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and, finally, in the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

My delegation welcomes the fact that this interest is today reflected in the adoption of a resolution on the security of United Nations operations. This text clearly shows our Council's will to take appropriate measures to ensure the security of an operation from the very moment that the planning begins, or measures to respond to situations in which the host countries for the operation cannot or will not discharge their obligations in this area.

In the latter case, the Council will envisage measures that are called for in each situation, without excluding any a priori. This could, for example, involve a reconsideration of the operation in the context of its possible withdrawal or, on the other hand, of its strengthening.

France has always hoped that the security of operations would be guaranteed first through practical measures taken at the very

(Mr. Mérimée, France)

moment when such operations are established. In this regard, my delegation expresses its satisfaction with the Council's decision to formulate here and now those conditions that must be met during the establishment of future operations: measures taken by the host country to guarantee security, the application of these measures to all personnel participating in the operation, and the signing of an agreement on the status of the operation and of all its personnel in the host country.

I can assure the Council, in conclusion, that my delegation will participate actively in all United Nations efforts to improve the security of operations and their personnel, whether it be when resolutions creating or renewing operations are adopted in our Council, or when the drafting of new instruments on the security of United Nations forces and personnel is discussed in the organs of the General Assembly.

Mr. LOZINSKIY (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The Russian Federation, as an active participant in a number of United Nations peace-keeping operations, is seriously concerned about the problem of the security of forces and personnel of United Nations peace-keeping in various regions. Unfortunately, the situation in this regard has recently deteriorated and urgently requires an appropriate response and practical measures on the part of the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

The Russian Federation favours the firmest of measures in order to ensure reliably the personal security of the military, civilian and police personnel of United Nations operations, as well as that of the representatives of other international and non-governmental organizations and programmes rendering humanitarian assistance in emergency situations. Their lives, health and dignity must be protected from attacks by extremists. There is a need for resolute and tough action regarding those individuals who bear direct blame for the organization and

(Mr. Lozinskiy, Russian Federation)

execution of armed attacks and other acts of violence against international personnel.

In our view, the resolution that has been adopted adequately reflects the general approach of the members of the Council to resolving this relevant problem and takes into account the important proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (S/26358).

The Russian delegation regards as extremely important the resolution's provision that security matters should be an integral part of the planning for any United Nations peace-keeping operation. There is a need for Governments of host countries to take appropriate measures to ensure the security and safety of United Nations personnel and for all parties to the conflict to cooperate closely with the United Nations on these questions.

The Russian delegation voices the hope that the implementation of the provisions of the resolution adopted today will promote an improvement of the situation concerning the security of United Nations personnel.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): The resolution we have adopted addresses an issue of increasing concern to the international community. Brazil attaches great importance to the security and safety of all personnel engaged in United Nations operations. As was mentioned by Foreign Minister Celso Amorim in his statement in the general debate in the ongoing session of the General Assembly, Brazil is currently participating with a significant contingent in the United Nations peace-keeping efforts and intends to expand its presence in this field. We are actively examining ways and means to do so.

A special word of recognition is due, I believe, to the Government and delegation of New Zealand for the very constructive role they have been playing in the consideration of this question, both in the Security Council and in the General Assembly.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

We listened with great attention to the thoughtful statement just made in this Council by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Mr. Donald Charles McKinnon.

We thank the Secretary-General for the carefully drafted report he submitted pursuant to the request contained in the presidential statement adopted by the Security Council under the New Zealand presidency on 31 March 1993. The Secretary-General's report constitutes an important input for the consideration of this urgent question by the relevant bodies of our Organization.

We are all disturbed by the number of attacks on peace-keepers, the frequency of which, according to the Secretary-General's report, has more than doubled in the past few years. These unconscionable acts deserve our strongest and unequivocal condemnation. Brazil has experienced casualties of its own nationals serving in peace-keeping operations. In the past 12 months, two Brazilian officers have died while serving in the missions in Angola and El Salvador, and other Brazilian officers have had to be repatriated for serious injuries suffered while serving with the United Nations Protection Force.

We sympathize wholeheartedly with other Member States that have suffered even greater casualties. We share the feelings of pain and indignation caused by these senseless losses. These sad experiences should not weaken our resolve to support the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Brazil fully supports the efforts undertaken by both the Security Council and the General Assembly to enhance the safety and the security of all persons engaged in United Nations operations. We also note with satisfaction that the General Assembly, during its forty-eighth session, will start to tackle the question of the safety and security of peace-keeping operations. In this regard,

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

it is very important that the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat work in close coordination in order to address the relevant issues within their respective spheres of competence in a mutually reinforcing manner.

It should be underscored that United Nations missions and operations are established and deployed in the name, not of the Security Council alone, but of the United Nations as a whole. In the resolution the Security Council has adopted, Brazil particularly values provisions designed to serve as guidelines for the future work of the Council with a view to the achievement of enhanced levels of safety for the personnel assigned to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Just as we have cooperated with New Zealand and other delegations in the Security Council in the consideration of this matter, the Brazilian delegation is also committed to participating in a constructive manner in the deliberations on the item included this year in the agenda of the General Assembly. It is in this spirit that we fully supported the adoption of resolution 868 (1993), a timely decision on a subject of concern to all Member States.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan): My delegation heartily welcomes His Excellency the Right Honourable Mr. McKinnon and wishes to thank him for his constant and serious interest in the question of the safety of United Nations personnel.

The increasing number of attacks and other violent acts against United Nations personnel is a source of serious concern. Although the Secretariat and various United Nations forums have worked vigorously to ensure their safety, we still encounter a lack of cooperation, inadequate precautionary measures and misunderstanding on the part of some authorities and people.

The urgent task of the United Nations is to enhance the effectiveness of its activities in the field where assistance is

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

desperately needed. But if not even the minimum requirement of ensuring the safety of peace-keepers and other United Nations personnel can be guaranteed, it will be impossible to enhance the quality of their work or, indeed, even to maintain their presence in the field.

Japan condemns any attack against United Nations personnel, regardless of whether the motive is political or criminal or whether the violence is deliberate or random.

The complexity of the question requires good coordination among various United Nations organs. Towards this end, it would surely be useful to undertake certain legal measures, operational adjustments and public relations efforts. But Japan places perhaps even greater importance on issuing a political appeal to gain the cooperation of the local authorities concerned. This, quite simply, is the most basic prerequisite.

For these reasons, Japan heartily welcomes the adoption of this resolution. It demonstrates the commitment of the Security Council to ensuring the safety and security of the United Nations personnel, and it reaffirms the Council's determination to discharge its responsibilities. I can only hope that this urgent message will be heeded by local authorities and will somehow reassure United Nations personnel in the field. The Council will remain seized of the matter and will vigilantly follow events in the field.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): First and foremost, I should like to join others in warmly welcoming the presence amongst us of the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, and I wish to thank him, his Government and his delegation for bringing to the Council's attention and sharpening its focus here on a subject which I believe is of growing concern not only to Council members but, more generally, to troop contributors and many other delegations in the wider membership of the United Nations.

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

I should also like to thank and warmly commend the Secretary-General for his excellent report. Not only is it well written; it contains a number of extremely important and very concrete proposals.

Our own consciousness of this problem has been heightened just in the past 24 hours, when we were notified by the United Nations Secretariat that two more British soldiers had been wounded in Bosnia following a mortar attack. The subject is very alive for us, as for many others in this room. It is true that peace-keepers have always been at risk; by definition, they are always operating in a tense and unstable environment. But, as the Secretary-General has pointed out, there is a new phenomenon: United Nations personnel are being attacked just because they are working for the United Nations. This is not only worrying, but frankly completely unacceptable.

We have to take all possible steps to ensure the safety of United Nations operations. We have to have proper arrangements for the investigation, trial and punishment of those who commit attacks on persons engaged in such operations. It is not only vital for the protection of the individuals concerned - it is also vital if we are to maintain political support for our peace-keeping efforts. I wish to say in this connection that I am particularly glad that the Secretary-General made it clear that safety and security issues are not just a question of protecting United Nations staff, narrowly defined, but of protecting all personnel who work for the Organization - volunteers or those on contract. They share the same risks and they should receive the same degree of protection.

The resolution we have just adopted will heighten awareness, we hope, on the part of host Governments and others of their responsibilities in this field. But it is only a first step. What we now have to do is to put it into practice. Here, I believe, we have to distinguish between the short term and the long term. In

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

the short term, we particularly welcome the emphasis of the resolution on the need to ensure that security is an integral part of the planning of an operation and that it extends, as I have said, to all persons engaged in the operation. We also welcome the emphasis on the need for the prompt conclusion of a status-of-forces agreement. It just is not acceptable any longer that host countries should drag their feet on this matter, as has happened in some recent cases, to the knowledge of us all.

Taking the longer-term view, however, we also wish to welcome the initiative brought by New Zealand to the General Assembly this autumn, which aims at the elaboration of a new international convention which will deal with the prosecution of those who attack persons engaged in United Nations operations. We hope that the General Assembly, through the Sixth Committee, will work speedily on this subject with a view to the adoption of a convention in the near future.

This New Zealand initiative follows the earlier initiative in the Council, which led to a presidential statement here in March.

I end as I began. I want to thank the delegation of New Zealand once again for bringing this matter to our attention. I think today's resolution is important. It is not the end of the story, and I have a nasty feeling that we shall be revisiting this subject in the months and years ahead.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): The resolution the Security Council has just adopted is of enormous importance not only because it has a bearing on the effectiveness of United Nations operations, but also, and above all, because of its human dimension. In fact, it relates to strengthening the safety of all the men and women - civilian, military and police - who are so admirably carrying out the arduous tasks involved in United Nations operations under a variety of difficult and unforeseeable circumstances.

(Mr. Yañez Barnuevo, Spain)

The recent expansion of United Nations operational activities and the broadening of their scope and their nature imply ever expanding and ever more dangerous mandates that place the personnel involved in increasingly perilous situations. This has led to an increased loss of life among those personnel. To date, 949 persons have lost their lives in United Nations peace-keeping operations, 550 of them in operations still under way.

More disturbing still is how quickly the number of victims is increasing. Fifty-one lives were lost in 1992, and we are informed that over a hundred personnel have been killed so far in 1993. In the last year alone, my country has lost 10 of its nationals serving in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They all deserve our admiration and gratitude for having made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the international community and in the interests of peace.

Given the current situation and that trend, it should come as no surprise that in "An Agenda for Peace" the Secretary-General called attention to the need to strengthen the safety and protection of United Nations personnel. And when, in the presidential statement of 31 March, the Council stressed the importance and urgency of this question, it requested the Secretary-General to report on the existing arrangements for the protection of personnel and on their adequacy, and to make recommendations for enhancing security. Those recommendations form the basis of the resolution just adopted.

I want to stress, first of all, that the resolution encourages the Secretary-General to ensure that security matters are a fundamental, integral part of the planning for an operation and that any such precautions extend to all personnel engaged in such operations, including civilian as well as military and police personnel, and United Nations staff as well as personnel of

(Mr. Yañez Barnuevo, Spain)

non-governmental organizations and enterprises that are playing an integral part in the operation.

Secondly, I would highlight the Council's firm position that the use of force by any party to a conflict against persons engaged in a peace-keeping operation will be considered interference with the exercise of the responsibilities of the Council, as well as the Council's readiness to consider measures it deems appropriate if the safety of such personnel is not respected.

In sum, this resolution sends the clear message that the Security Council is ready to do everything necessary, within its power, to ensure the safety and protection of persons engaged in a United Nations peace-keeping operation.

But it is not enough. All Member States must be aware of the problem and act accordingly. For that reason we welcome the initiatives now being taken elsewhere in the Organization, and in particular the proposal by New Zealand - I take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of that country - that the General Assembly draft a convention on responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and on measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice. We pledge our full cooperation in the speedy adoption and entry into force of such an international instrument.

Ultimately, guaranteeing the safety and protection of persons involved in United Nations operations is a responsibility and a task for all of us. In large part, the success of this undertaking will determine the success of future United Nations operations to restore and maintain peace the world over.

Mr. CHEN Jian (China) (interpretation from Chinese): In recent years United Nations peace-keeping operations have played their role in alleviating regional tension and promoting peaceful solutions of regional conflicts and are therefore highly regarded

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

by the international community. The rapid expansion of United Nations peace-keeping operations and the increasingly complex nature of their missions have given rise to a number of questions demanding prompt solutions. Among them is that related to the security and safety of United Nations peace-keeping personnel, a question that has been the focus of much attention.

Many peace-keeping personnel, including Chinese personnel, have given their lives for the peace-keeping cause. The Chinese delegation is deeply concerned by, and strongly condemns, the violence directed against United Nations peace-keeping personnel. The host country of a United Nations peace-keeping operation and the various parties to the conflict should cooperate closely with the United Nations to create conditions conducive to the successful execution of the peace-keeping operation. They have the responsibility and the obligation to take effective steps to ensure the security and the safety of peace-keeping personnel. We therefore favour the Security Council's taking appropriate action, within its mandate, to ensure the security and safety of peace-keeping personnel in line with the actual conditions of each operation.

On the whole, the resolution we have just adopted reflects that spirit, and we welcome its adoption.

We also appreciate the initiative taken by New Zealand and its efforts on this matter, and we thank the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, who is present at today's meeting and who made an important statement.

In taking appropriate steps to ensure the security and safety of peace-keeping personnel, the United Nations should respect the sovereignty of the host country and refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.

It is out of the question to ensure the security and safety of peace-keeping personnel by force alone. A fairly safe environment

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

can be established only with the cooperation and support of the host country and the various parties concerned. We are not in favour of using force indiscriminately or of resorting to excessive force, harming innocent civilians. It is undesirable to stop violence by greater violence.

China, as a founding State, is dedicated to the United Nations endeavour in peace-keeping operations. We have participated in many peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. We are ready to continue, together with other Member States, to make our contribution to ensuring the success of United Nations peace-keeping operations and the security and safety of their personnel.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I should like now to make a statement in my capacity as representative of Venezuela.

The question of the safety of United Nations personnel participating in operations that are being conducted in areas of conflict has in the recent past acquired increasing importance and undeniable urgency. It is clear that the presence of United Nations personnel, be they military or civilian, in areas of conflict, incurs the risks that are part of the job being carried out, but recently those risks and dangers have included attacks and acts of aggression that demonstrate a lack of respect and, sometimes, an attitude of provocation, towards the noble and selfless mission being carried out by the United Nations in its efforts to preserve peace or to fulfil humanitarian objectives.

Venezuela wishes to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the memory of all those men and women of many nationalities who have given their lives in the service of the United Nations. We also wish to express, for the record, our gratitude to all staff of the Organization who, with courage and in a spirit of sacrifice,

(The President)

are at the present time carrying out tasks in the various theatres of operation in which the United Nations is taking part.

The resolution we have just adopted meets the need for a political statement on basic criteria and principles that, it is felt, will meet some of the immediate needs that have already been identified as regards the adoption of measures to deal with the situations jeopardizing the safety of United Nations personnel. Venezuela believes that these general principles must be the subject of thorough, specialized study in various forums so that progress can be made towards establishing a set of rights and obligations for all countries that are participating in or are the objects of such operations.

For their part, both the body that carries out the political supervision of those operations - which is the Council's responsibility - and the Secretary-General should have at their disposal pre-established criteria for determining when, in which circumstances and to what ends they are called upon to exercise their authority if such obligations are not complied with.

Recent experience shows the physical and material risks run by United Nations personnel, and also the need to establish parameters for any reaction that the Council must or can undertake in order to deal with unforeseen circumstances or in order to have the authority of the United Nations prevail.

It is in our collective interest to strengthen the credibility and acceptance of United Nations forces in solving the conflicts they were created to solve, without adversely impacting on their safety. Venezuela understands that with this resolution, a process of reflection and reform will begin, and is prepared to participate actively in this exercise.

That concludes my statement as representative of Venezuela, and I now resume my function as President of the Security Council.

(The President)

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.